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In claiming, too, only to restate the history, Mr. Terry believes that the format of his book excludes reference to all authorities. I have already pointed out its general accuracy; but its value is discounted by the plan. Contemporary phrases and such like are worked in with uniform success (Burnet's words often appearing without quotation marks), and they often provide interest and color; but there is nothing to guide the reader or to encourage him to further study. If Mr. Terry does not like to burden his pages with foot-notes, authorities at the end of each chapter could easily be inserted. However, it is fair to add that for that aspect of the history on which he lays stress, he has provided over forty pages of excellent "Pedigree Tables" which have been revised by the Lyon-King-of-Arms.

There are several good maps, a good index, and an interesting portrait of James V. lately come into the possession of the University of Aberdeen and apparently not previously reproduced.

W. P. M. KENNEDY.

Rois et Serfs, un Chapitre d'Histoire Capétienne. Par MARC BLOCH, Chargé de Cours à l'Université de Strasbourg. (Paris: Édouard Champion. 1920. Pp. 224. 2 fr.)

THIS study of the policy of the Capetian kings toward the serfs upon the royal domain covers the period from about the middle of the twelfth century to the accession of the house of Valois in 1328. The closing date is arbitrarily chosen for the purpose of limiting the scope of the investigation, and by no means marks the close of an epoch in the history of serfdom.

In so far as the author is able to throw light upon the progress and extent of the movement toward emancipation, his principal results may be summarized as follows. The first considerable demand on the part of the serfs for freedom—doubtless stimulated by the rise of the communes—arose in the closing years of Louis VI., and it continued to grow in volume through the reign of St. Louis. At first this demand was resisted by the kings, and the earliest victories of the peasants were won only after prolonged struggles. (The emancipation of the serfs of Orleans, e. g., was accomplished only after forty-three years of effort, 1137-1180.) But presently the monarchy came to realize that enfranchisements could profitably be exploited as a source of revenue, and during the reign of St. Louis the royal opposition was withdrawn. The first groups of serfs to gain their freedom were, as one would expect, those of certain towns and their environs; but during the reign of St. Louis emancipations took place upon a large scale in rural districts, and the number of serfs who gained their freedom at this time must have been great. Owing to a change in administrative methods under the successors of St. Louis, records of but few enfranchisements were preserved in the archives of the central government, and it therefore be-

comes much more difficult to trace the further history of the emancipation movement. Apparently there was a falling off in the demand for freedom at this time. At any rate the needs of the treasury were such that offers of freedom by the government far outran the peasants' demands, and special commissioners were sent into the provinces to urge upon the royal serfs the purchase of manumissions. Traces of the activities of these commissioners have survived for the years 1291, 1296, 1299, 1302, 1315, and 1318; but to what extent the serfs availed themselves of these costly opportunities it is impossible to say. A venerable tradition credits Louis X. and Philip V. with having ordered a general enfranchisement of the serfs on all the royal domain in 1315 and 1318. The author demonstrates the falsity of this tradition. The operations of these monarchs in the matter of manumissions were confined to the two *bailliages* of Senlis and Vermandois; the celebrated "Ordonnances" of 1315 and 1318 were not general edicts of emancipation at all, but letters patent despatching royal commissioners into the two regions above mentioned for the sale of manumissions; and the fame of these documents is due solely to the literary fancies of the clerk who drafted their extraordinary preamble: "Sans l'éloquence intempestive d'un clerc, l'histoire se serait à peine se souvenu de ce modeste épisode." It is impossible to draw conclusions as to the extent of the enfranchisements which took place during the reigns of Philip the Fair and his sons.

The Capetian kings, be it well understood, in granting freedom to their serfs were not moved by pious motives or by the vague, traditional notions of natural freedom which pervaded the atmosphere of the Middle Ages. Financial considerations alone determined their attitude toward their serfs. There is no reason to suppose that either the good St. Louis or any of his predecessors or successors were moved by other motives. Different methods of exploitation were practised at different periods. At one time the attempt was made to increase the income from servile dues by the more efficient collection of *mainmortes* and *formariages*, at another to reap greater, but more transient, profits from the sale of manumissions. The greatly increased needs of the treasury caused the government to redouble its efforts to profit by such sales at the opening of the fourteenth century. Considerations of space forbid us to dwell upon the author's admirable survey of the development of this aspect of royal financial policy, or to do more than mention the concise information which he has brought together concerning the numerous collectors of *mainmortes* and *formariages* and the commissioners for the sale of manumissions who served the Capetian kings. It is earnestly to be hoped that he will be able in the near future to complete the more comprehensive work upon *Les Populations Rurales de l'Ile-de-France à l'Époque du Servage*, of which the present study is to form but a complement, *un chapitre détaché*.

C. W. DAVID.